

MORE CORN PER ACRE

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(Written for Farmers Mail and Breeze.)

There are four factors necessary to the production of a high yield of corn. They are, good soil, good seed, good cultivation and a good season. The absence of any one of these seriously handicaps the others, so that the statement of the old farmer who said "each one of these elements counts 25 per cent for a high yield by its presence, and 50 per cent against a high yield by its absence," is more nearly correct than appears at first thought.

By a good soil is meant a soil with the elements of fertility so balanced and so available that the plants may make a rapid, uniform growth from the start until the crop is harvested. Fresh plowed pasture and, even, sod, timothy sod that has been well fertilized, almost ear to ear the first year, all are good for corn production, all the better if fall or winter plowed.

Plumpe sod rarely, if ever, produces a maximum yield, nor does land that has been put in corn more than three years in succession, no matter what the original richness of the soil may have been. The corn plant is a rank feeder and the amount of available plant food actually taken from the soil is very great. In addition, because the surface must be kept loose and free from weeds during the time of heavy rains, rolling lands always have a heavy loss from washing.

Few crops will ruin land more quickly or completely than corn planted continually without fertilizer or rotation.

I do not think it is too strong a statement to say that half the ground annually planted to corn would better be planted to some other crop, nor is it exaggeration to say that half the acreage properly handled will produce as much as the total yield grown under existing conditions.

The average yield in Kansas is something under 30 bushels per acre, and it is nothing uncommon to secure yields of two, three or even four times that much. I have in mind a community where five years ago it was not believed that a yield of 100 bushels per acre could be grown, and a man who said it could be done was thought to be losing his mind. Since that time, in this same community, dozens of acres have been grown with yields in excess of 100 bushels, simply because, by an object lesson, farmers have been shown it could be done.

The second factor in securing an increase yield is improved seed, or high yielding seed. It has been proved time and time again by

every careful breeder of corn that some ears have an unknown quality that enables these ears to produce more than other ears of the same variety, grown under the same conditions. The ear-to-row method of breeding has shown extremes, ranging from 35 bushels per acre for the lowest, and 83 bushels for the highest when planted on prairie soil and a minimum of 60 bushels with a maximum of 180 when under most favorable conditions possible. Of course, no single ear yields that rate, it being comparatively easy to measure the ground and compute the rate of yield. When we realize that this high yielding trait is hereditary, it is immensely valuable, while a man would actually lose money if paid to plant the progeny of a low-yielding ear.

It has been proved by the experience of both experiment stations and farmers, that corn brought from a distance requires some little time to become acclimated before it will do its best, so that it behooves a purchaser to secure corn from the same section of his own state, rather than several hundred miles away in another state. The claims of any seedman that his corn will make good in any one of four or five different states must be looked upon with a good deal of suspicion, for it is directly contrary to the results obtained generally.

In cultivating a crop, a thorough preparation of the ground is essential. Fall or winter breaking is preferred, so the frost can break up the soil particles and make plant food available. Disking and harrowing just before planting gives a better seedbed and serves to hold moisture. The method of cultivating is not so important as that it be done at the right time. However, I believe that the cultivation of the crop after it is planted, is, on the whole, the best performed part of work of the average farmer.

Good soil, good seed, good cultivation are absolutely in the control of the grower, but in the matter of weather he must take what comes, just as everybody must, but even here some of the bad results of an unfavorable season may be overcome. A soil rich in humus retains more moisture than one deficient in that respect; well drained land carries off the water more quickly and thoroughly than undrained; a soil mulch overcomes, in part, the effect of drouth, and tested seed will make a better stand so that even unfavorable weather is not so apt to injure the crop where the other elements of success are in evidence.

Railroad Rate Bill Passed.

Jefferson City, Mo., March 1. Without a dissenting vote the Senate this evening passed Colonel Phelps' House bill prohibiting discrimination on the part of the railroads in passenger fare.

Four amendments were submitted to the bill by the Senate Committee on Railroads and all were adopted without debate. One of these exempts electric lines running through cities where charges are regulated by ordinances and the other three merely corrected errors in the original bill.

Senator Oliver offered an amendment providing that the railroads shall not be compelled to charge less than 2 cents per mile. This was accepted by those advocating the bill and it was adopted without debate.

Senator Hall offered two amendments, one providing for basing charges on mileage and the other permitting long lines to make rates to meet the competition of short lines. Both of these amendments were voted down.

Senator White of Linn explained the bill briefly. He said it did not undertake to fix rates, but was intended solely to prevent discrimination against the citizens of Missouri and to prevent a main line road from charging citizens of the State more than is charged those of other State or more than is charged by other trunk lines in the State.

This ended the debate. The roll was called and every one of the thirty Senators present voted for the bill. The measure will now go to the House as amended and there the amendment will have to be agreed before it starts on its road to Governor Hadley.

Mail Clerks' Editor Held.

Denver, Colo., March 1. Urban Walters, editor of The Harpoon, a Democratic publication devoted to the interests of the postal railway mail clerks, was arrested to-day by United States Deputy Marshal Chadwick on the charge of violating the postal laws.

Postal Inspector Cochran ordered the arrest on advices from Washington. Walters, in his attack on the Government for permitting railway mail clerks to ride in wooden cars, thereby jeopardizing their lives, attacked not only the Postmaster General, but the President.

In addition to scorching editorials, he printed and mailed thousands of circulars in which he charged that Postmaster General Hitchcock had instituted "gag rule" in the department, and that the President refuses to modify or countermand the "infamous orders" issued by the Postmaster General.

Walters claims he is being mistreated and that his arrest is an effort to suppress his publication. He was arraigned this afternoon before United States Commissioner Hinsdale and bound over in \$500 bail for a hearing March 6.

Prof. O. W. Colgate, writes the Democrat that he has resigned his position in the Canon City, Colo., schools and will move to Shirleysburg, Huntingdon Co., Pa., next month. He orders the Democrat sent to his new address in order that he may keep up with the news here. He is going to the farm and in order to get some good Missouri ideas, he orders the Farmer and Breeder sent him. It is a good paper and should be read by all farmers. Mr. Colgate regrets that it will not be possible to stop in Monroe to see his many friends. Pennsylvania gains some good citizens.

W. S. Woodson, while on his recent trip to Louisiana and Texas, bought 40 acre near Brownsville, Tex. This land is in the neighborhood where Jamsie Rodgers lives.

Like Folks.

S. M. Jordan, the Missouri Corn man, in his talks on better seed selection, improved methods of handling the soil and rotation of crops, to conserve the natural fertility of the soil has said:

"Corn is a good deal like folks," says Mr. Jordan, in speaking of the importance of seed selection. "It does not have to be big or beautiful to be good. Most of you wait until spring to clear the seed corn, and then you go to the crib and pick out what appears to be the best and soundest ears. There is only one worse thing to do, and that is to go to your neighbor's crib after night and get it."

Mr. Jordan insists that one should know the full history of the seed corn to be planted; that the history should include the conditions under which it has grown; the state of the roots and stalk, the cob and its relations to the general yield.

E. A. Trowbridge, professor of animal husbandry, stated that the farmers of Southern Missouri are deficient in the grade of horses they are raising.

This he ascribes to cross-breeding.

Kerr Quits Westminster.

Fulton, Mo., March 1. Doctor David Ramsey Kerr, president of Westminster College, has tendered his resignation to the Board of Trustees, to take effect at the end of the present school year in June.

The resignation was accepted at a meeting of the board in St. Louis last Friday.

Doctor Kerr has been offered the presidency of Whitworth College, at Tacoma, Wash., at a salary of \$3,000. He also has under consideration a return to pastoral work.

Doctor Kerr came to Westminster in 1904 and his term exceeds that of any preceding president, although the college is more than sixty years old.

The Board of Trustees has not yet named his successor, and if the matter is deferred until the June meeting it is very probable the college will go through the next year without a president. In that event, Doctor J. J. Rice, at present vice-president, would be the nominal head of the institution.

Under President Kerr's regime the college endowment has been increased \$100,000. Washington Mansion erected and new Westminster Hall almost completed.

President Kerr has been in college work twenty-one years, the greater part of which time he has been president of Westminster and Bellevue College of Bellevue, Neb.

February Failures and Liabilities.

There were 1,011 failures reported to "Bradstreet's" for the month of February. This is a total almost identical with that reported a year ago, when 1909 were reported, and it is only 21 more than in February 1909, while 279, or 21 per cent less than in February, 1908. The liabilities, on the other hand, show a marked decrease, the total for February this year—\$11,298,783 being 31 per cent less than in 1910 and 15 per cent less than in 1909. Liabilities are also less than half those of February, 1908. In January this year the number of failures was 1,378 and the liabilities were \$30,567,935, so that February shows 26 per cent fewer failures, and liabilities were 60 per cent smaller. —Financial America.

A schoolboy wrote an essay on cats. The chapter on different breeds supplied the following information: "Cats that's made for little boys to maul and tease is called Maltese cats. Some cats is known by their queer purrs; these are called Persian cats. Cats with very bad tempers is called Angorrie cats. Cats with deep feelin's is called Feline cats."—Ex.

Take Time for Reading.

When talking of periodicals are you not often met by this assertion: "Oh, I never have any time for reading?" I hear it again and again said in a no-use-quarreling-with-the-inevitable tone that would be pitiful if one were not a little incredulous. To one who has run the whole gamut of housewifely experiences except bloated wealth, and who knows all about the multitudinous demands made upon the time of the wife and mother, this touching cry appeals, of course. And yet, if we let every day's work so crowd us that we have no time for the spiritual and mental uplift that comes through good literature, we are to blame. One can obtain many helpful and interesting hints by reading good papers. And I am sure we can find them in such papers as the Mail and Breeze, the Householder, and many other good magazines. If you haven't got the reading matter, beg or borrow it. Read every good paper, every good book, every piece of good reading matter you can get hold of, and you won't regret it.

Of course you want time for resting, too, but the saying is, "I haven't the time." Take it. The case with most of us housewives is that when we do get to sit down we have to take up some work, sewing or mending, or something else of the sort. Save time by serving plain fruit occasionally instead of pies. Cook a big pot of vegetables for dinner sometimes and have a cold supper. And let me whisper it, dear sisters, don't iron the rough rags and things and do take a little time each day for reading and resting. Let's do.—A Mail and Breeze Reader, Glace, W. Va.

No More Whisky Advertising.

The Twice-A-Week Republic of St. Louis, Mo., makes the announcement that no more whisky advertising will be printed in its paper. This will be good news to most of our readers. The Twice-A-Week Republic is the oldest, biggest and best metropolitan semi-weekly newspaper in the United States, and by cutting out this line of advertising it should greatly increase its circulation in this community. The subscription price is 50 cents a year but for a short time only they will make a special offer, and by all means advise your friends and neighbors of the fact that all whisky and liquor advertising has been discontinued and that \$1 will pay for a three-year subscription. Write for free sample copy. Send orders to The St. Louis Republic, St. Louis, Mo.

Sweden's Old Industry.

Dairy farming in Sweden has a history going back almost seven centuries. At the close of the Sixteenth Century cattle rearing and the production of butter and cheese were important and remunerative branches of industry, yet it may be said that the last forty years has shown the greatest progress in this branch of farming. Milk is used for human food, for the rearing and fattening of calves and other young animals, and for the production of butter and cheese. It is estimated that each inhabitant consumes one quart of milk a day.—Chicago Record-Herald.

Among the things dug out of the ruins of secretary of state office after the fire which destroyed the capitol is an ancient seal which was used by the state before the present seal was invented. Not many persons know that the original great seal of Missouri had an eagle on the front. It is a war-like looking bird and is shown peering over the top of a shield.—Milan Standard.

Dan Boon, of Ely, was here Saturday.

The National Flower.

O! Erin has the shamrock green,
And England has the rose,
In bonny Scotland's misty glens
The purple thistle grows.
The Jungfrau wears the edelweiss
Upon her snowy breast,
And France for centuries has borne
The lily in her crest.
The cornflower on the castled Rhine
In azure beauty blooms,
The heavy-headed lotus nods
Among Egyptian tombs.
But in the land of liberty
A yellow blossom spring,
That with its glory dims the gold
Upon the heads of kings.
It brightens every dusty road
And every barren field,
And needs no care to sow its seed,
Or make its blossoms yield,
The nation's flower, it only grows
In Freedom's sacred sod,
Aye, proudly waves in Freedom's
cap—
The feathery goldenrod.
—Mina Irving, in Leslie's

Washin' Day.

It's washin' day at our house
An' this is how I tell:
It comes right after Sunday
An' it has a sudsy smell.
An' father's in a hurry
An' mother's tired out,
An' everyone's jes' awful cross
An' don't want me about.
So I take Teddy an' my doll
An' we go off an' play
That ev'ry day is Chris'mas,
An' the ain't no washin' day.
—Irene Staley Woodcock.

Horace Mann once wrote a beautiful truth in the form of an advertisement. "Lost, yesterday somewhere between sunrise and sunset, two golden hours; each set with sixty diamond minutes. No reward is offered, for they gone forever."—Ex.

Quincy is to have the Mississippi Valley Automobile Show, March 20-26. It is the first held nearer than St. Louis.